IN THE CLAIMS

1-14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (Currently Amended) An update processing and transmission system, comprising:

a status query means for automatically requesting status information relating to a commerce-related event from a common carrier information system via a network;

storage means for storing the status information relating to a the commerce-related event;

status information retrieval means for automatically retrieving said status information from a the common carrier information system via the a-network and providing the status information to the storage means;

message generation means for automatically generating a status message reflective of said status information stored in the storage means; and

message forwarding means for automatically forwarding said status message to a point where it may be accessed by an interested party.

16.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein said status information relates to shipment of an item.

17.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein said status information retrieved by said status information retrieval means is contained on a second computer physically remote from a first computer on which said status information is stored and accessible via the a-network.

18.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein said status information is stored on a status information database within a first computer.

19.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 15, further comprising a status information database for separately storing status information.

20.   (Currently Amended) An update processing and transmission method, including:

automatically receiving status information relating to a commerce-related event in response to a status query to a common carrier information system, wherein the status information is received from the common carrier information system over a network;

storing the status information in a status database relating to the a commerce-related event;

retrieving said status information from the status database;

automatically generating a status message reflective of said status information; and

automatically forwarding said status message to a point where it may be accessed by an interested party.

21.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said status information relates to shipment of an item.

22.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said status information retrieved is contained on a first computer physically remote from a second computer which stores the status information.

23.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said status information is stored on the status information database within a first computer.

24.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising separately storing said status information.